

# Indian Health Service

## Foundation

The United States has a unique legal and political relationship with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes as set forth in the U.S. Constitution, treaties, statutes, Presidential Directives and Executive Orders, and court decisions. These legal instruments create a federal trust responsibility to American Indians and Alaska Natives. This trust responsibility includes, but is not limited to, the protection of the inalienable right to tribal self-governance and the provision of social, medical, and educational services for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Department of Health and Human Services, including the Indian Health Service, shall honor and uphold its federal trust responsibilities and the inherent sovereign rights of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

## MISSION

The mission of the Indian Health Service, in partnership with Tribal governments, and in collaboration with tribal organizations and Urban Indian health organizations is to raise the physical, mental, social, and environmental health and well-being of the American Indian and Alaska Native people to the highest level.

## GOALS

The Indian Health Service shall provide high-quality, comprehensive, culturally appropriate personal and public health services to all American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The Indian Health Service shall eliminate all health disparities that exist between American Indians and Alaska Natives and the general population.